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DATA ON USSR PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

[Comment: This report presents information from January-February 1954 Soviet newspapers and periodicals on developments in the USSR petroleum industry. Information is given on the USSR as a whole and on the following regional industries: Azerbaydzhan and Georgian, Groznyy and Ukrainian, Second Baku, and Central Asian.]

Petroleum Industry of the USSR as a Whole

INDUSTRY ENDEAVORS TO MECHANIZE DERRICK-RIGGING WORK -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 7 Jan 54

In 1953, the Technical Council of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry USSR held a training session for derrick riggers in the city of Bogul'ma with the objective of improving both the organization of labor and the mechanization of derrick-rigging work.

The session acknowledged the fact that it was necessary to introduce more extensively the large-block method into derrick rigging and the assembly of drilling equipment. The more advanced enterprises have shown by experience that both derrick rigging and the assembly of drilling equipment by this method are very productive and economical. However, this method requires higher qualifications of derrick riggers, about which neither the Ministry of Petroleum Industry and its subsidiary administrations nor the associations or petroleum trusts have been too concerned.

The Drilling Office of Molotovneft' Trust has properly appraised the advantage of this method. The Tatneft' and Bashneft' associations have both converted to erecting drilling rigs by industrial methods. Both have established specialized, mechanized rig-assembly offices.

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The Drilling Office of Molotovneft' Trust can institute the new method in its derrick rigging shop by raising the qualifications of its workmen. In 1952, Azneft' Association held seminars with the objective of raising the qualifications of the engineering-technical workers of rig-erecting crews. Although the seminars achieved excellent results, they were nevertheless deficient due to short training period involved and the limited discipline. Only 6 hours were devoted to production. The trainees did not have at their disposal drawings of the new mechanisms necessary to erect rigs and assemble drilling equipment by industrial methods.

In 1953, the cost of erecting rigs by the large-block method was 19 percent below that of the ordinary method of erecting rigs. Of the 19-percent cut in rig erecting costs, 12 percent came about through savings made in the use of building materials. In erecting derrick rigs by the large-block method, cement consumption was cut nearly in half; the required lumber materials dropped from 64 cubic meters to 20 cubic meters. In 1953, the rig-erecting shop of the Drilling Office of Molotovneft' Trust erected 23 more derricks than in 1952.

In 1954, the drilling administration of Azneft' Association will have to establish courses of instruction to raise the qualifications of engineer-technicians and rig-erecting crews. The trainees will have to be instructed on large-block [foundations] building of all sorts, organization of the work, and erection of derrick rigs by industrial methods.

VARIANCE IN RESERVE UTILIZATION COEFFICIENT -- Moscow, Neftyanoye Khozyaystvo, No 1, 1954

The coefficient of utilization of reserves, depending on the physical properties of the strata and the methods of exploitation, usually varies from 0.15 to 0.75. An increase in the coefficient of utilization of reserves is equivalent in value to the discovery of new deposits.

The most effective measure for accomplishing this is the introduction of contour (water) flooding.

An increase of only one hundredth in the coefficient of utilization of reserves throughout Azneft' Association as a whole would be equivalent in value to the discovery of a new deposit similar to that of Neftyanoye Kamni.

COMPLICATED GEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS PRESENT PROBLEM IN DRILLING -- Moscow, Neftyanoye Khozyaystvo, No 2, 1954

Of the total time spent in drilling in 1951 throughout the Ministry of Petroleum Industry USSR, 6.1 percent involved complicated geological conditions in exploratory drilling. In 1952, this figure rose to 6.5 percent and in the first half of 1953, to 6.8 percent.

The regions where caving-in is encountered in the drilling of oil wells are located in the southern USSR. These include the Kabristan and Kobystan areas and the Pirsagat and Khilly sections of Prikurinskaya Depression; the southern points of Nebitdag, Bayadag, and others; the Karabulak and other areas in Grozneft' Association; the Iori and Mirzaani areas in Gruzneft' Association; and a number of areas in the Ukrneft', Krasnodarneft', and Sredazneft' associations.

The problem involved in drilling wells under complicated geological conditions such as those found in Turkmeniya, Krasnodar, and other regions arises from the existence of alternating low- and high-pressure strata in these areas.

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In Kazakhstan and Ukraine, the complications are caused by saliferous strata. In the presence of these strata, a mud solution coagulates, causing the distension and caving of argillaceous seams.

The most complicated drilling conditions in the Turkmenneft' Association are on Cheleken Island and in the anticlinal area of western Nebitdag. In the Nebitdag area, according to statistics of the Turkmen Branch of the VNII, [All-Union Scientific and Research Institute?], 34.4 percent of all complications are due to caving. The distance between 1,400 and 2,000 meters is the most difficult to drill.

In the region of Stalingradnefterazvedka, crumbling and caving occur both in quarternary and in middle Devonian deposits.

DRILLERS INCREASE SPEEDS -- Moscow, Trud, 2 Feb 54

In 1953, the speed of developmental drilling was increased 5 percent and the speed of exploratory drilling was increased 10 percent.

Azerbaijdzhan and Georgian Petroleum Industries

AZNEFT' ASSOCIATION FULFILLS HOUSING PLAN -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 1 Jan 54

Azneft' Association's construction organizations fulfilled the 1953 plan for the construction of housing by 107 percent. About 50 million rubles were spent in the association on the construction of housing.

AZERBAJDZHAN PRODUCTION PLANS FULFILLED -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 10 Feb 54

In 1953, Azneft' Association fulfilled its plan 100.2 percent and Azgaz Trust fulfilled its plan 100.2 percent.

The 1953 plan for petroleum production in Azerbaijdzhan SSR was fulfilled 99.4 percent. Both Leninneft' and Azizbekovneft' trusts fulfilled their annual quotas for gross production. On the other hand, the Stalinneft', Kaganovichneft', Molotovneft', and Kobystanneft' trusts failed to fulfill their annual quotas for gross production.

TRUSTS AND FIELDS FINISH AHEAD OF 1953 SCHEDULE -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 3 Jan 54

Oil Field No 5 of Ordzhonikidzeneft' Trust fulfilled its 1953 quota ahead of schedule. All of the field's consolidated sectors fulfilled their pledges and produced thousands of tons of petroleum above their 1953 quota. The Gousany Oil Field also produced a considerable quantity of fuel above quota.

Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 20 Jan 54

Oil Field No 8 of Leninneft' Trust fulfilled its 1953 quota for petroleum production ahead of schedule.

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Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 9 Jan 54

Oil Field No 5 of Buzovnyneft' Trust fulfilled its 1953 quota for petroleum production ahead of schedule.

Oil Field No 3 of this trust increased its daily production 15 percent. All of the field's sectors exceeded their pledges.

Neftechalanef't Trust fulfilled its pledge four-fold. The trust added 28 wells to its operations in 1953. Its Oil Field No 2 fulfilled the 1953 quota on 24 November.

The following also fulfilled their 1953 quotas ahead of schedule: Neftechalanef't Trust, Siazan'neft' Trust, Oil Field No 5 of Molotovneft' Trust, and drillers of Azizbekovneft' Trust.

PRODUCTION AND EQUIPMENT AT MOLOTOVNEFT' TRUST -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 27 Jan 54

In 1953, Oil Field No 2 of Molotovneft' Trust was so successful with its underground repairs that not a single well produced by the deep-well method went out of operation during the year.

The field exceeded its 1953 quota for petroleum production ahead of schedule.

Although experience at the leading oil fields in Azerbaydzhan has demonstrated the advantages of machinery for lifting and running-in of rod and pipe, this field has hardly adapted itself to the new technology. Only five of its oil wells have been equipped with such machinery.

Except for its Oil Field No 5, the Molotovneft' Trust's fields each have only two or three oil wells equipped with machinery for the new technology.

In 1954, the Molotovneft' Trust expects to equip more than 200 oil wells with equipment for the new technology. This work has already been started, but is proceeding slowly.

BUZOVNYNEFT' TRUST USES REPRESSURING, INCREASES PRODUCTION IN 1953 -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 3 Jan 54

The Buzovnyneft' Trust fulfilled its 1953 quota ahead of schedule and fulfilled its pledges. The trust achieved these results, in large measure, through the use of secondary methods of production at its oil fields. It started using repressuring methods in 1948, and by 1952 and 1953 such secondary methods were widely used in its operations.

The volume of water pumped into the strata has increased considerably. In 1953, this volume was double that of 1952.

The trust's Office of Secondary Methods exceeded its 1953 plan. Daily output at many oil wells doubled or tripled. Secondary methods played an important part in increasing petroleum production at Oil Fields No 3 and No 5, both of which fulfilled the 1953 plans considerably ahead of schedule. In 1953, petroleum production through repressuring increased 11 percent in the Buzovnyneft' Trust.

One of the basic tasks facing the trust is to increase the number and capacity of input wells. In 1953, the number of input wells was increased 70 percent.

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NEW PETROLEUM AREAS EXPLOITED -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 3 Feb 54

In January 1952, Kobystanneft' Trust was organized in the Duvanninskiy Rayon on the site of the newly-exploited petroleum areas there.

Kabristannefterazvedka Trust has been surveying petroleum reserves and preparing new areas for exploitation. Industrial exploitation has been started in the petroleum area in the vicinity of Umbaki. Petroleum has been produced in Karadag, Chaildag, Solokhay, and the eastern part of Adzhaveli.

Petroleum has been produced, for the first time in the history of petroleum exploration, at the so-called "Sarmatskiye" (Sarmatian) deposits in the Klych area.

FAILURE TO REACTIVATE OLD WELLS ---Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 16 Jan 54

The Office of Capital Repair of Oil Wells of Azizbekovneft' Trust has developed new methods for putting wells back into operation.

There are more than 100 wells at the oil fields of this trust which have been idle for many years. Each of these wells at one time produced 2-25 tons of petroleum in 24 hours. The office decided to reactivate these wells by the method of "cutting a second shaft" (zareзка vtorym stvolom).

This new technology of making capital repairs on old wells still has not been duly accepted by Azerbaydzhan petroleum trusts. In 1953, 55 wells were repaired by means of cutting and drilling a second shaft. Of this number, 15 were repaired by the Office of Capital Repair of Oil Wells of Azizbekovneft' Trust. During the same year, the capital repair offices of the Leninneft', Ordzhonikidzeneft', and Kaganovicheft' trusts failed to repair many wells. Officials of Azneft' Association have not kept close contact with the new progressive technology. More than 2 years have passed since the Office of Capital Repair of Oil Wells in Azizbekovneft' Trust first used the new method in capital repairs, yet only in December 1953 did it receive instructions, and these only temporary, about "cutting the second shaft."

As of January 1954, the office had not received norms for new repair work. It is short of grinders, deflectors, and other equipment which it must obtain from Azneftemash Trust.

The office decided to reactivate 50 long-idle wells in 1954.

AZIZBEKOVNEFT' TRUST DELAYS EXPLOITATION AT TURKYANY -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 5 Feb 54

Azizbekovneft' Trust has been delaying the exploitation of deep oil wells located at Turkeyany. Drilled several years ago, these wells showed the penetrated strata to be richly saturated with petroleum. The extremely slow exploitation of these test wells has been depriving the oil fields of additional sources for increasing petroleum production.

TRUSTS FAIL TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 8 Jan 54

The managements and trade unions of the Azizbekovneft', Molotovneft', Stalinneft', Kaganovicheft', and Leninneft' trusts have been making poor use of collective agreements as a means of fulfilling the state plan and improving the living conditions of workers. Not only did these trusts fail to fulfill the 1953 plan, but they continue to lag in 1954.

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OIL FIELD CAUSES LENINNEFT' TRUST TO LAG -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy,
15 Jan 54

One of the basic reasons for the failure of Leninneft' Trust to fulfill its 1953 quota is the prolonged lagging of its Oil Field 13.

This field has continued to operate poorly in 1954. Since the beginning of January, both of its sectors have been producing tens of tons less petroleum than called for in the plan. The increase in petroleum production has been hampered by poor organization and a low level of technical direction.

In 1953, the average daily yield at this field dropped from month to month. During the year, the average daily production decreased by 83 tons.

The scope and manner of executing repressuring methods has been poor. The number of input wells is insufficient and their poor spacing has resulted in repressuring being felt only by several wells in one of the field's sectors.

In 1953, this field started to use the intrawell de-emulsification method, and considerably increased the output from 18 wells. The necessity of using this method to the fullest extent possible is quite obvious, but the Leninneft' Trust failed to show much concern in this respect.

The trust has been rather indifferent about the fact that enterprises of Azneftezavody Association are behind in supplying "kontakt" [an emulsion breaker] to the oil field.

AZERBAYDZHAN OFFSHORE FIELDS INCREASE PRODUCTION IN 1953 -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 28 Jan 54

In 1953, Azerbaydzhane offshore oil fields increased their production by 23 percent.

Ashkhabad, Turkmenkaya Iskra, 17 Dec 53

The Bukhta Il'ich Offshore Oil Field fulfilled its 1953 plan on 15 December, ahead of schedule.

Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 29 Jan 54

In 1953, Offshore Oil Field No 6 produced thousands of tons of petroleum above its plan. This field, the largest in the Artemneft' Trust, came into being during recent years. The construction of the causeway, several kilometers long, created favorable conditions for petroleum production.

North of Artem Island, Oil Field No 5 of the same trust has sprung up.

On both Artem Island and Neftyanyye Kamni, new industrial installations have been established, including an Office for Secondary Methods of Production, an Office for Exploitation, and an Office for Repair of Offshore Oil Field Equipment.

The new Gyurgyanneft' Trust grew up on the site of the oil fields of Ostrov Zhiloy and Neftyanyye Kamni. Oil fields No 1 and No 2 of this trust are now called a "city in the open sea."

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GEOLOGICAL PROSPECTING WORK LAGS -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 28 Jan 54

In recent years, wide-scale geological prospecting work has been seriously lagging in Azerbaydzhan, although it is one of the most important conditions for the rapid development of the petroleum industry. The basic shortcoming in this work is that it is being conducted in an irrational manner in a large number of areas; it is carried on without any scientific basis and without enough preliminary work being done before drilling.

This situation arises from the fact that, for several years, operations have been directed more toward developmental drilling in the low-output and backward areas, and the fact that exploratory drilling operations have been carried out on a large scale only in those areas where geological conditions have been complicated.

Azneft' Association officials Karasev, Alikhanov, Melik-Pashayev, and Babazade have not been devoting enough attention to a more extensive use of repressuring at the production horizons to maintain seam pressure and to obtain a maximum increase in petroleum production. Neftyanyye Kamni, Gyurgyany-more, Gousany, Banka Darvina [Darwin Bank], and Umbaki, all new petroleum deposits, were brought into production without contouring and without any operations to maintain seam pressure.

Secondary methods of exploitation will have to be introduced at new deposits as well as at those areas which have been exploited for some time.

DEEP WELL DRILLING EXPANDED -- Moscow, Trud, 5 Feb 54

Extra-deep well drilling was first started in the Baku area, with the first such well having been drilled at Surukhany. Ordzhonikidzenezft' Trust now has 11 oil wells drilled 3,800-4,300 meters deep which are in production. Two extra-deep wells have already been drilled in this trust in 1954.

The drilling of extra-wells is being expanded. Ten drilling crews are now engaged in drilling wells which are planned to be 4,000-4,500 meters deep. In December 1953, the drilling of a well was started in Azizbekovskiy Rayon which will produce petroleum from a depth of 5,200 meters. A 53-meter derrick has been constructed for this job. Most of the equipment for the job has been made available by Uralmashzavod. This well will be the deepest oil well in the world. As of early February 1954, the drillers have already penetrated 1,842 meters deep.

DRILLING OFFICE FINISHES PLAN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE -- Moscow, Krasnaya Zvezda, 17 Feb 54

The Lokbatanskaya Drilling Office of Molotovneft' Trust yesterday fulfilled its January-February 1954 plan, thus fulfilling the two-month plan ahead of schedule.

REFINERY CONSTRUCTION AHEAD OF SCHEDULE -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 9 Jan 54

Construction Administration No 3 of Azneftezavodstroy Trust fulfilled its 1953 schedule for industrial construction ahead of schedule.

AZNEFTEZAVODY FULFILLS PLAN -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 10 Feb 54

The Azneftezavody Association fulfilled its 1953 plan by 100.1 percent.

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GRUZEFT TRUST FULFILLS PLAN -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 7 Feb 54

Gruzeft' Trust fulfilled its 1953 plan by 104 percent.

Groznyy and Ukrainian Petroleum Industries

MALGOBEKNEFT' TRUST CUTS REPEAT REPAIR JOBS -- Moscow, Neftyanoye Khozyaystvo, No 2, 1954

Malgobekneft' Trust has expanded cost accounting in 1953 at its oil fields. An important factor leading to the improvement in the organization of cost accounting was the enlargement of field crews and the establishment of complex cost accounting sectors in the fields.

In Oil Fields No 1 and No 2 of this trust, during 6 months of 1953, the number of repeat underground repair jobs, compared with the same period of 1952, decreased by 20 percent and the operating interval of wells between repairs was increased by 4 days. A comparison of the first 6 months of 1953 with the first half of 1952 shows that plan fulfillment has been increased by 5 percent and production costs have been cut by 4 percent.

The value of cost accounting was noticeable especially in the saving of materials. In the second quarter of 1953, the oil fields spent 212,000 rubles less for materials than was estimated according to the norms. This amount included a saving of 76,000 rubles on pumps.

Oil Field No 1 achieved the best results from cost accounting. In 1953, this field saved 281,000 rubles on the expenditures of the producing sectors alone.

UKRAINIAN INDUSTRY FULFILLS PLAN -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 9 Feb 54

The Ukrainian SSR petroleum industry fulfilled its 1953 plan 106 percent.

BORISLAVNEFT' TRUST USES NEW TECHNOLOGY -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 16 Feb 54

Borislavneft' Trust oil fields are operating according to new technology. They are now producing petroleum almost exclusively by means of electric power and deep-well pumps. Progressive methods are being introduced everywhere; the research work in the sectors has all been changed.

During the past 4 years (1951-53), this trust's Oil Field No 9, the only field of the trust producing petroleum from the old areas, has increased production considerably. In 1953, the field's Sector No 4 increased its output by 8 percent.

Second Baku Petroleum Industry

TRUST USES WATER TO DRILL WELLS -- Moscow, Neftyanoye Khozyaystvo, No 2, 1954

In 1953, water was used, rather than the usual mud solution, in over 40 percent of all the drilling done in the Kuybyshevneft' Association.

Stavropol'burneft' Trust has been especially successful in drilling with water and has carried on these operations on a wide scale. In nearly all of the

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wells drilled by its Drilling Office No 1, water has been used in place of the usual mud solution. The drilling crews of this office operate in the Zhigulevskiy Mountains, where about 85 percent of the geological cross section consists of very hard strata.

Central Asian Petroleum Industry

INDUSTRY FULFILLS 1952-1953 PLANS -- Alma Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 17 Feb 54

The Kazakh SSR petroleum industry fulfilled its plan for petroleum production for both 1952 and 1953. The enterprises were equipped with more technology and obtained better-qualified specialists.

The industry now is confronted with the task of making further and sharper increases in petroleum production, improving the organization of drilling and exploratory work, modernizing the technology of refining, and eliminating the defects which exist in both the cultural and housing services of the petroleum workers.

BAYCHUNAS FIELD INTRODUCING CONTOUR FLOODING -- Alma Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 28 Jan 54

The Baychunas Oil Field at Emba is engaged in operations to introduce contour flooding on a wide scale.

KAZAKHSTANNEFT' EXCEEDS QUOTA, DRILLING LAGGING -- Alma Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 4 Feb 54

Kazakhstanneft' Association exceeded its 1953 plan for petroleum production. However, exploratory drilling at Emba is one of the most lagging sectors of the republic's petroleum industry.

Kazneftstroy Trust also is not coping with its tasks. The 1953 plan for the construction of enterprises and cultural and public utility projects has not been fulfilled.

TURKMEN PARTY SECRETARY REPORTS ON PETROLEUM INDUSTRY -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenkaya Iskra, 16 Feb 54

S. Babayev, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Turkmen SSR, reports that the republic's petroleum industry has been making great strides. The industry fulfilled its plan for production 100 percent in 1952 and 101.6 percent in 1953, the latter figure representing a 35.7 percent increase over 1950.

Babayev reports that the republic's petroleum industry has the potential for making further increases in petroleum production, but that this depends on the speed of both exploratory and developmental drilling, an objective which the Turkmenneft' Association is meeting only slowly.

The immediate problem of the industry is to eliminate completely existing defects, to master new areas, to expand socialistic competition to fulfill and exceed state plans, and to assure further increases in petroleum production.

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INDUSTRY FULFILLS PLAN, UPS DRILLING IN 1953 -- Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra,
21 Feb 54

In 1953, the Turkmen petroleum industry fulfilled its plan as follows: 102 percent for petroleum production, 106 percent for benzine, and 110 percent for kerosene.

Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 19 Feb 54

In 1953, petroleum production in the Turkmen SSR was 35.8 percent over that of 1950. The volume of drilling work was 2.8 times that of 1950.

A considerable amount of work has been done in exploiting the Chelenskiy petroleum deposits, where a petroleum city is rising. More than 30,000 square meters of housing have been turned over to petroleum workers of this peninsula.

NEW OIL WELLS IN WESTERN TURKMEN SSR -- Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra,
23 Jan 54

New oil wells are being put into operation without interruption in the western part of the Turkmen SSR.

The derrick-rigging section of Drilling Office No 2 of Turkmenburneft' Trust plans to erect 28 derricks and repair 30 rigs by 14 March 1954.

One of the most important tasks facing Turkmen oil workers in 1954 is the introduction of secondary methods of production.

EXPLORATORY DRILLING IN TURKMEN SSR -- Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra,
18 Feb 54

In 1953, the Turkmen petroleum industry fulfilled its plan for petroleum production ahead of schedule. Production in 1951-1953 has risen 35.8 percent. During this period, considerable investments have been made in the industry. The oil fields have been supplied with more modern equipment and the educational and living facilities of the workers have been improved.

Despite these achievements, exploratory drilling does not meet demands. Prospectors are unable to overcome emergencies. Because of the late arrival of equipment and materials, over 33 percent of the total working period is spent in idleness. Not only is there a lack of control over the stages of drilling work, but there is a shortage of qualified specialists, and the level of discipline is low. All these factors lead to interruptions in the fulfillment of drilling plans each year.

Although the number of young, specialized, and better-qualified personnel entering the republic's petroleum industry has been steadily increasing, not very many entering the industry are Turkmen. Only 27 percent of those engaged in the industry are natives. The question of training local personnel still is being given little attention.

Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra, 24 Feb 54

Although petroleum production in the Turkmen SSR has been increasing each year, as compared with 1940, the growth is very slow in relation to the tasks facing the industry.

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The Turkmenneft' Association (chief Mravyan) fulfilled its 1953 plan for exploratory drilling only 82 percent. Although it is quite essential that the plans for exploratory drilling in Cheleken be fulfilled, the Chelekenneft' Trust (manager, Chernyshev) has not been carrying out its operations satisfactorily. In 1953, this trust fulfilled its plan for drilling only 59.6 percent, despite the aid it received from the Ministry of Petroleum Industry USSR, and despite the fact that a second clay plant was built, offices of water supply and a well-cementing office were set up, and a blacksmith shop and a pipe shop were built in the area.

Not a single drilling office fulfilled its 1953 plan for drilling. The equipment is being neglected, and breakdowns have been quite frequent. The maintenance personnel lack know-how and are slow in raising their qualifications. During drilling operations, barite, clay mortar (mud solution), fuel, and lubricants are all being used uneconomically, causing drilling costs to rise.

The Turkmenneft' Association attributes its lag in exploratory drilling in Cheleken to the weak material and technical base there. However, instead of endeavoring to strengthen the base, Chelenkenneft' Trust officials are trying to make a cut in the drilling plan for 1954.

The association is also losing an enormous amount of gas going off into the air, despite the fact that there are numerous outlets in the republic where the gas could be used to advantage.

DRILLING OFFICE IMPROVES OPERATIONS -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenkaya Iskra, 13 Feb 54

Drilling Office No 1 of the Nebitdagneft' Trust lagged in its operations in 1953, but in January 1954 fulfilled its plan for drilling 112.6 percent.

TURKMEN GEOPHYSICISTS GET NEW EQUIPMENT, TRAINING -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenkaya Iskra, 6 Feb 54

Turkmen geophysical enterprises have been receiving much new equipment and many new precision instruments. The Moscow Scientific and Research Institute for Geophysical and Geochemical Exploration has been aiding these enterprises considerably in their endeavor to utilize this equipment most effectively. Personnel from the Turkmen Oil Field Geophysical Office have been receiving training at the above institute in the use of the complicated electrometric equipment. The Turkmen enterprises are also being assisted by geophysical enterprises of Baku, Groznyy, and Ufa.

UZBEK ENTERPRISES FULFILL PLANS -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 9 Feb 54

The 1953 plan for petroleum production in the Uzbek SSR was fulfilled 109 percent.

Subsidiary enterprises in the republic of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry USSR fulfilled their 1953 plans as follows: Sredazneft' Association, 107 percent; and Termezneft' Trust, 134 percent.

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Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 12 Jan 54

Yuzhnyy Alamyshik Oil Field, the best field of the Sredazneft' Association, fulfilled its 1953 plan for petroleum production on 30 November. In four cost-accounting sectors of the field, underground repairmen are constantly exceeding their norms.

TADZHIK PRODUCTION UP IN 1953 -- Stalinabad, Kommunist Tadzhikistana, 14 Feb 54

The 1953 plan in the Tadzhik SSR as a whole was fulfilled 103 percent for petroleum, 131 percent for benzine, and 110 percent for kerosene. The republic's "KIM" Oil Field fulfilled its 1953 plan 103 percent.

KIRGIZ FIELD FINISHES YEAR AHEAD -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 5 Feb 54

The Changyrtash Oil Field fulfilled its 1953 plan for petroleum production ahead of schedule. During the year, the field made some improvements in its operations which made this accomplishment possible.

MORE HOUSING FOR TATAR WORKERS -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 23 Jan 54

In 1953, about 150,000 square meters of housing were built for petroleum workers in the Tatar ASSR.

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50X1-HUM

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